

Recreational Trespass

Trespassing is illegal and seriously erodes support for recreational hunting. Permission is required from the landowner or leaseholder before you may hunt on any farm lands or connected woodlots or on any posted private land. Landowners may grant verbal permission. Hunters are required to produce their hunting license to landowners upon request.

If you wound an animal or bird and it runs or flies onto private property, you have no legal right to pursue it without permission of the landowner. Without permission of the landowner, you are trespassing and subject to prosecution.

Float Hunting

Hunting and trapping are exclusive rights of landowners bordering the waterway and their invited guests. Float hunters need permission to enter lands protected by the recreational trespass law. You may float hunt public lands open to hunting.

Private Lands Open to Public Hunting

Hunting Access Program

The DNR leases several thousand acres of farmland in southern Michigan for public hunting with permission from the owner. **For any license type, HAP lands are considered private lands.** For details, consult *Public Hunting on Private Lands* which is available at southern Michigan DNR offices, license agents, the Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension, Michigan Farm Bureau, and on our Web site: www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Select Privately Owned Lands

Various privately owned lands have had their hunting rights purchased by the state of Michigan. These lands are open to public hunting. Registration is not required but all applicable laws still apply. For additional information and a complete legal description of these parcels, refer to the DNR Web site.

Commercial Forest Lands

Nearly 2.2 million acres of privately owned forests enrolled in the CF program are accessible by foot to the public for fishing, hunting and trapping. The CF lands are not posted or signed as commercial forests and may be fenced and/or gated. The presence of a fence or gate does not prohibit public access to CF lands for fishing, hunting or trapping. (The owner may restrict public access during periods of active commercial logging to ensure public safety). Camping, tree stands, construction of blinds, the use of ORVs and vehicles, the use of any materials that may harm the value of trees or create a potentially hazardous wood-harvesting condition, and the cutting or destruction of brush, trees or other plants for any purpose are prohibited, unless you have owner permission. Legal land descriptions of lands listed in this program are available on the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr, under Forests, Land and Water. If you have questions about this program or specific CF lands, contact the nearest DNR office or DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management, PO Box 30452, Lansing, MI 48909, or call 517-373-1275.

Artificial Lights and Shining

It is illegal to use an artificial light (including vehicle headlights) to locate wild animals at any time during November and all other days of the year between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. It is illegal to use an artificial light on a highway or in a field, wetland, woodland or forest while having in your possession or control a bow and arrow, firearm or other device capable of shooting a projectile.

Exception: This prohibition does not apply to pistols carried under the authority of a concealed pistol license or properly carried under authority of a specific exemption from the requirement of a concealed pistol license. This does not authorize the individual to use the pistol to take game except as provided by law.

An artificial light may be used from Nov. 1-30 on property you own or property owned by a member of your immediate family if you do not have in your possession or control a bow and arrow, firearm or other device capable of shooting a projectile.

It is a violation of federal law to shine at any time on any national wildlife refuge.

A deer hunter may use an artificial light one hour before and one hour after shooting hours while carrying an unloaded firearm or bow and arrow when traveling on foot to or from their hunting location.

See “Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting,” page 35, for artificial light regulations when hunting raccoon, opossum, fox and coyote at night.

Persons not possessing a firearm or bow and arrow while traveling on foot may use lights during dog training or field trials to follow dogs chasing raccoon, opossum or fox. A lighted pin sight on a bow or a scope with illuminated cross hairs may be used to hunt game during legal hunting hours.

Note: If you are using an artificial light to locate game, you must immediately stop your vehicle when signaled by a uniformed officer or marked patrol vehicle.

Important Live Animal Restrictions

Live Animals—It is illegal to possess live game or protected animals taken from the wild except under a permit issued by the DNR.

Importation Bans—It is illegal to bring a live raccoon, skunk, wild rabbit or hare, wild turkey or wild turkey hybrid or their eggs, or a mute swan or their eggs into Michigan. It is illegal to import or possess a wolf or cougar without an endangered species permit. There is a moratorium on importing deer and elk into Michigan.

Rehabilitation—A permit is required to rehabilitate a wild animal in Michigan. It is illegal to possess a bat or skunk. It also is illegal to rehabilitate a deer unless the origin of the deer is positively confirmed to be from outside Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle counties.

Hunting within a Road or Railroad Right-of-Way

You may hunt within a road right-of-way where the adjoining property is publicly owned. If the adjacent property is privately owned, you must have permission from the landowner. Railroad rights-of-way are private property. Trespassing on railroad property is a misdemeanor. You must have written permission from the railroad company to be exempt from trespass.

State Parks and Recreation Areas

All state parks and recreation areas are closed to hunting from April 1 through Sept. 14, except in areas designated open during the early Canada goose season and spring wild turkey season.

Check with the park headquarters for current trapping regulations and any restrictions for those areas prior to trapping.

It is illegal to target shoot in a state park or recreation area, except on a designated shooting range at Bald Mountain, Island Lake, Ortonville and Pontiac Lake recreation areas.

Contact the individual park for hunting information. To make camping reservations, call 800-44-PARKS. State Park Motor Vehicle Permits can be ordered by calling 517-373-9900.

Raised Platforms and Tree Stands

The following persons may hunt from a raised platform or tree stand:

- ☐ All bow and crossbow hunters.
- ☐ Bear and deer hunters when using a firearm.
- ☐ Fox and coyote hunters from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

All other firearm hunters are prohibited from using a raised platform or tree stand. A raised platform means a horizontal surface constructed or manufactured by a person that increases the field of vision of a person using the horizontal surface beyond the field of vision that normally would be attained by that person standing on the ground.

If you hunt on public land, your tree stand must be portable and your name and address must be affixed in legible English that can be easily read from the ground. Hunting platforms cannot be affixed or attached to any tree by nails, screws or bolts; however, a "T" bolt or similar device supplied by a tree stand manufacturer can be used.

Screw-in tree steps are illegal on public lands. It is illegal to use any item that penetrates through the bark of a tree in the construction or affixing of any device to assist in climbing a tree. Scaffolds, raised platforms, ladders, steps and any other device to assist in climbing a tree cannot be placed on public lands any earlier than Sept. 1, and must be removed by March 1. A permanent raised platform or tree stand may be used for hunting on private land with the permission of the landowner.

It is unlawful to use an illegal tree stand, scaffold, step, etc., regardless of who placed it on public lands. Your name on a tree stand or ground blind on public land does not guarantee exclusive use.

Ground Blinds on Public Land

A ground blind means a structure, enclosure or any material, natural or manufactured, placed on the ground to assist in concealing or disguising the user or occupant for the purpose of taking an animal. Any ground blind on public land that does not meet the requirements of either Type 1, 2 or 3 described below is an illegal ground blind. Exception: See the 2007-2008 Waterfowl Hunting Guide for regulations on waterfowl hunting blinds.

Only the following types of ground blinds are legal on public land:

Type 1 (Portable Ground Blind). This blind must be clearly portable and removed at the end of each day's hunt. Fasteners, if used to attach or anchor the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and also must be removed daily. No identification is required. These blinds may be used for legal hunting on public land, including all state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3 (see page 7).

Type 2 (Dead Natural Materials Ground Blind). This blind must be constructed exclusively of dead natural materials found in the area of the blind except that a hunter may add netting, cloth, plastic or other materials for concealment or protection from the weather if these materials are not permanently fastened to the blind and are removed at the end of each day's hunt.

These items can be tied to the blind but cannot be stapled, nailed, glued or fastened in any permanent manner. No identification is required. Fasteners (nails, screws, etc.) cannot be used in construction. These blinds may be used for legal hunting on public land, including all state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3 (see page 7).

Type 3 (Constructed Ground Blind). This includes all other blinds not meeting the requirements of either Type 1 or Type 2 including portable ground blinds if not removed daily. Bear hunters may place constructed ground blinds on state lands in bear management units open to bear hunting for which they have a bear license beginning Aug. 10 in Zone 1 units and in Zone 2 units beginning Aug. 17. Blinds must be removed within five days of a bear being harvested, or within five days of the end of the bear season for which the hunter has a license.

Constructed ground blinds on all Zone 1 and Zone 2 public lands for deer hunting shall remain legal from Nov. 6 to the end of the annual deer season. In addition to criminal penalties, any constructed blind found on public land prior to Nov. 6 or after the end of the annual deer season will be considered abandoned.

The name and address of the person placing a constructed ground blind on public land must be permanently attached, etched, engraved or painted on the blind. These blinds are not legal on state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3 (see page 7). Fasteners, if used to anchor or attach the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and must be removed with the blind.

Note: If a person's Type 3 ground blind has been permitted to be placed on land administered by a local public agency (city, township, county), the local agency will establish the length of time that a blind may be placed on its property.

Hunters with disabilities — Please see page 15 for special ground blind rules on public lands.

Fur Harvester License

All persons who hunt and trap furbearing animals, including those who trap or hunt on their own enclosed farmland or private property, must have a valid fur harvester license. This license allows you to hunt fox, bobcat, coyote or raccoon, and trap badger, bobcat, fisher, marten, fox, coyote, weasel, mink, raccoon, muskrat, beaver, otter, skunk or opossum.

Exception: See footnotes 1 and 6, page 41.

A person may trap at any age but must possess a valid fur harvester license. This license does not authorize a person under age 10 to possess a firearm while trapping. A Junior Resident Fur Harvester-Trap Only license is available to youths without Hunter Safety training.

Nonresident Fur Harvester License

Nonresidents may hunt and trap furbearing animals only from Nov. 15 through the regular season closing dates. A nonresident cannot purchase a license before Nov. 15. Residents of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the province of Ontario, Canada, cannot purchase a Michigan nonresident fur harvester license.

Furbearer Kill Tags

A person who intends to harvest bobcat, otter, fisher or marten must request and shall be issued free kill tags for these species. These tags are available Sept. 15 through the last day of the hunting and trapping season for that furbearer. Kill tags will be available from license agents or by contacting any DNR Operations Service Center (see page 48). A person who kills a bobcat, otter, fisher or marten shall immediately validate the tag and attach the tag to the hide from the upper jaw to the eye socket or through the lower jaw. Persons under eight years of age may not obtain a kill tag for bobcat, otter, fisher or marten.

Because of the change in stock for the new license year beginning March 1, 2008, otter tags for 2007-2008 will be available only from Sept. 15, 2007 to March 1, 2008. After March 1, individuals who have not obtained their '07-'08 otter kill tags should contact a DNR Operations Service Center to request tags.

Live Traps

As a substitute for foothold traps, trappers may use live traps capable of taking only one animal at a time within 450 feet of an occupied dwelling and associated buildings during the legal time for trapping the target animal. Live traps must be checked daily. Any animal captured in a live trap must be immediately killed or released; it is illegal to take these game animals or protected animals live from the wild. It also is illegal to hold these animals in captivity.

Bait

Trappers may use game animals and game birds or their parts, lawfully taken and possessed, only during the open season for those animals or birds. No other game or protected animals or birds may be used as bait. Your bait should be placed where it is not visible to nontarget species such as owls, hawks and eagles.

Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting

Only raccoon, opossum, coyote and fox may be hunted at night. The following regulations apply:

Species (Type)	Open Season	Legal Type of Hunting	Legal Artificial Light ^A	Legal Devices ^B
Raccoon (Regular)	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31	With dogs only. Firearm must be unloaded and arrows un-nocked except when taking raccoon in tree.	Only lights similar to the type ordinarily held in the hand or on the person. (Flashlights, portable battery-powered spotlights and headlamps, and similar portable lights designed to be carried in the hand or on the person are legal.) The use of natural light, including night vision optics and scopes, is legal.	Only a .22 or smaller caliber rimfire rifle or handgun, or shotgun with loads other than buckshot, slug, ball or cut shell, or bow and arrow.
Raccoon (Damage Control)	July 15 - Sept. 30 and Feb. 1 - March 31	Only on private lands when doing or about to do damage; landowners and guests only; with dogs only. Firearm must be unloaded and arrows un-nocked except when taking raccoon in tree.		
Opossum	Sept. 15 - March 31	With dogs only; firearm must be unloaded and arrows un-nocked except at point of kill.		Same as above except no rifles or handguns from Nov. 15 - Nov. 30 in Shotgun Zone.
Fox and Coyote (See note below)	Oct. 15 - March 1	With game or predator call only. Firearm may be loaded or arrow nocked only when using call.		
Coyote (Damage Control)	Sept. 15 - Oct. 14 and March 1 - March 31	Only on private lands when doing or about to do damage; landowners and guests only; with game or predator call only; firearm may be loaded or arrow nocked only when using call.		

Note: After fox season closes (March 1) hunting hours for coyote return to the regular hunting hours for small game (see page 13).

^A An artificial light, including laser sights, of the type described above may be mounted on a person's clothing or firearm. Spotlights powered by vehicle batteries, floodlights, vehicle headlights and other artificial lights not similar to the type ordinarily held in the hand or on the person are illegal.

^B All hunters using a .22 or smaller caliber rimfire to take a furbearing animal, day or night, from Nov. 10 - Nov. 14, must have a fur harvester license.

Additional Hunting Rules

It is illegal to:

- ❑ Hunt or pursue wild animals or birds from a car, snowmobile, aircraft, motorboat, PWC, ORV or other motorized vehicle, or by a sailboat.
- ❑ Set fires to drive out game.
- ❑ Use snares, traps, cages, nets, pitfalls, deadfalls, spears, drugs, poisons, chemicals, smoke, gas, explosives, ferrets, weasels or mechanical devices other than firearms, bows and arrows or slingshots to take wild birds or animals, except as provided by trapping rules or special permit.
- ❑ Use a crossbow to take game except under permit (see page 15).
Exception: A properly licensed hunter 12 and older may use a crossbow during the Nov. 15-30 firearm deer season.
- ❑ Buy or sell game, except as provided by trapping rules or captive wildlife permit.
- ❑ Destroy the identity of game or evidence of the sex of game while in the field or when transported in a motor vehicle.
Exception: See Transportation of Game, page 14, for deer, bear and elk.
- ❑ Hunt from a tree, raised platform or scaffold with a firearm.
Exceptions: See page 33 for rules when hunting bear, deer, fox and coyote. Also see 2007-2008 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide for waterfowl hunting blind regulations.
- ❑ Hunt while under the influence of intoxicating alcohol, exhilarating or stupefying drugs.
- ❑ Use cartridges containing tracer or explosive bullets. A silencer or similar apparatus on a firearm is illegal.
- ❑ Camp on state land without a permit. Permits are free and are available at any DNR office. They must be posted at your campsite. A fee is charged for camping at designated campsites in state parks and recreation areas and state forest campgrounds.
- ❑ Make use of a dog in hunting deer except that a dog may be used to locate a down or mortally wounded deer if the dog is kept on a leash and none of the persons in attendance possess a firearm or bow and arrow. If the tracking is done at night, artificial lights ordinarily carried in the hand may be used. A dog that barks while tracking the deer shall not be used on public lands.
- ❑ Harm or harass a deer or bear when it is swimming in a stream, river, pond, lake or other waterbody.
- ❑ Kill or wound any game without making a reasonable attempt to retrieve the animal and include it in the daily bag.
- ❑ Shoot reptiles and amphibians with a firearm (including spring, air or gas propelled).

The gray wolf is protected in Michigan under the Endangered Species legislation.



GRAY WOLF (*Canis lupus*)

Height: 30" average — Length: 4-1/2 to 6-1/2 feet — Weight: 50-100 lbs.



COYOTE (*Canis latrans*)

Height: 18" maximum — Length: 3 feet — Weight: 25-45 lbs.

YOU CAN HELP THE GRAY WOLF BY:

Learning the difference between the gray wolf and the coyote.

Reporting any harassment of a gray wolf.

Reporting wolf observations and locations.

Send information to:
DNR WILDLIFE
1990 US-41 SOUTH
MARQUETTE, MI 49855

Note: Coyote hunting in Zone 1 and Zone 2 is closed Nov. 15 - 30.

The Impacts of Wolves on Deer in the Upper Peninsula

Many Michigan residents are concerned about the impacts of wolves on the Upper Peninsula deer population. The extent of those impacts is influenced by many factors. However, compared to the deer mortality caused by other sources, including other predators, the impact of wolves on the deer population is relatively small. Several studies have examined wolf kill rates, and recent estimates range from 30 to 50 deer eaten by an adult wolf each year. Wolves prey upon a variety of species, and the proportion of their diet comprised of deer changes continuously. Also, an unknown number of deer eaten by wolves may have died from other causes, such as winter conditions or vehicle collisions.

A population of 500 adult wolves (about the number of adult wolves in the UP in 2006) could eat between 15,000 and 25,000 deer annually. There are about 350,000 deer in the UP, and hunters killed about 50,000 deer in 2006. Between 5,000 and 8,000 deer-vehicle crashes are reported annually in the UP, and even more deer are killed in crashes that are not reported. A severe winter can kill 30 percent (or more) of the deer population.

Wolves and deer evolved together, and deer possess physical and behavioral adaptations for avoiding wolf predation.

Annual Deer Mortality in the UP

